

# Hunting and Trapping Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department  
of Fish and Game

**Emergency Order 05-07-05**

Issued at Kotzebue, Alaska  
October 5, 2005

**Effective Date:** 11:59 p.m.  
October 6, 2005

**Expiration Date:** June 30, 2006  
unless superseded by subsequent  
emergency order.

## **EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order closes the Tier II muskox hunt (TX107) in the northwest portion of Game Management Unit 23 on October 6, 2005 at 11:59 p.m. in response to over-quota harvest in Unit 23 north and west of the Noatak River.

## **REGULATION:**

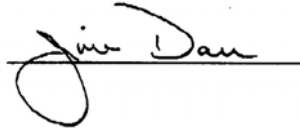
Therefore, the following regulations in **5AAC 85.050(2), Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Muskox**, are superseded as follows:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(2)		
...		
Unit 23, that portion north and west of the Noatak River:		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull by subsistence hunting Tier II permit only; up to 15 bulls may be taken	Aug. 1-Oct. 6 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season.
...		

All other muskox hunting regulations in Unit 23 remain unchanged.

McKie Campbell  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Dau", written over a horizontal line.

Jim Dau  
Area Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

Muskoxen were first introduced to the northwest portion of Game Management Unit 23 in 1970. This population grew roughly 8% annually until 1998 and then 2% annually since that time. In February 2005, this population numbered 369 individuals. Based on composition data collected from a sample of this population in July 2005, the population was comprised of roughly 325 adult muskox (defined as any muskox >12 mos. old) and 40 calves. Because of its relatively modest growth rate, local Fish and Game Advisory Committee representatives, Department staff, and members of the Board of Game agreed that it should be harvested conservatively. As result, a state subsistence hunt (TX107) was established that specified up to 3% of the adult population could be harvested and limited the harvest to bulls. When this hunt was first established, roughly two thirds of the population occurred on state-managed lands and the remainder inhabited Cape Krusenstern National Monument which was closed to the hunting of muskoxen. Using these criteria, the harvest quota for TX107 has been 6 bulls annually since the inception of this hunt.

Acting on an anonymous report, Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement officers confirmed that 5 muskoxen (1 bull, 3 cows and 1 calf) from this population had been shot and left near Cape Thompson during September 2005. Further examination revealed the carcass of another bull that had died during the spring or summer of 2005. Based on its proximity to a well-established 4-wheeler trail, the investigating officer suspected this muskox had been shot and left as well. Additionally, the fresh carcass of an adult cow was discovered by Department and NPS staff while conducting composition surveys during July 2005. The carcass was near a frequently used 4-wheeler trail and had a bullet entry wound in the upper paunch. Considering that at least 7 muskoxen have been illegally taken during the summer and fall of 2005 and that 4 of these individuals were cows, this take exceeds the 2005-2006 harvest quota for TX107. Therefore, we are closing the season to conserve this muskox population.